


RURAL DISTRICT OF DORCHESTER

A N N U A L R E P O R T



ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE

R U R A L D I S T R I C T O F D O R C H E S T E R

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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Medical Officer of Health (Combined Appointment)

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Senior Public Health Inspector

N. RAWLINS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

J. M. STAMP, M.A.P.H.I.

J. B. SALT, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Clerical Staff

Miss K. R. BROOKS

S. A. W. BROWN

Miss J. K. HARDY

Miss M. A. SMITH (Combined Appointment)

Rodent Operators

E. BUDDEN

A. J. WATSON

County Clinic,
Glyde Path Road,
Dorchester.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Dorchester Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District of Dorchester for the year 1957. It is written on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Of the infectious diseases, Measles and Whooping Cough were again prevalent this year, Measles commenced in April, nine months after the last appearance. The Whooping Cough notifications numbered 54, compared with 50 last year. It is pleasing to note that there were no cases of Food Poisoning or Poliomyelitis notified.

One important feature regarding infectious diseases, was the continuation of the vaccination against Poliomyelitis and the response has been good. During the year, 525 children born in the years 1947 to 1956, have been immunised.

An outbreak of Influenza started in October and quickly spread to the villages from the neighbouring borough. The school children were first to be involved.

Nine cases of Anthrax affecting pigs was reported. The necessary disinfection and destruction of the animals was dealt with by the police. No further cases occurred.

There has been a slight increase in the notification of Tuberculosis affecting the lungs and it is equally distributed in both sexes; it is to be noted that three of these cases occurred in persons over 65 years of age and six in persons over 55. I would like to stress here, the importance of elderly persons attending the Mass Radiography Unit because it is thought that one of the main sources of infection is in the elderly persons who have had a chronic cough for years and think it is only bronchitis, yet they may be spreading Tuberculosis to their own family unknowingly.

The number of animals killed at the Chickerell abattoir is increasing steadily each month, the figure for the month of December was 2,391 compared with 1,412 for January; the proportion of cattle to other animals is high,

which increases the time necessary for inspection.

The total number of animals killed for the last three years were:-

1955 - 551 (part year)	1956 - 18,956	1957 - 23,992
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The Housing Survey is going on slowly but methodically. The restriction of the building programme because of financial reasons, though to be regretted may help a little in that a more complete picture will be available when building restarts.

There are still a number of old people living in unsuitable houses and reconditioning of houses for the use of old people, would be a worth while effort during this lull.

It is again to the credit of the Council that a further 82 Improvement Grants were approved during the year.

Reports on Smoking and Cancer, Accidents in the Home and use of Fire-guards, were made to the Public Health Committee.

Talks and films on Clean Food and Vaccination were given to groups of children who were soon leaving school.

I wish to express my appreciation for the continued help of the Chairman and members of the Council during the year and my colleagues on the staff, especially Mr. Rawlins and the rest of the Public Health staff for their support.

Your obedient Servant,

I. B. LAWRENCE.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures for 1956 shown in brackets)

Area	...	...	...	...	128,606 acres
Resident Population	...	...	...	16,850	(16,840)
No. of houses inhabited at the end of 1957	...	...	...	5,222	(4,916)
Rateable Value (31st March, 1958)	...	...	...	£130,497	(£133,866)
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£500	

VITAL STATISTICS

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths 16,850

Comparability Factor	Births	1.25
	Deaths	0.71

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	134	129	263	
Illegitimate	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	
Totals	<u>141</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>277</u>	(274)

Still Births

Legitimate	5	3	8	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	(4)

<u>Deaths - All Causes</u>	118	121	239	(272)
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality)

Legitimate	4	1	5	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	(2)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality)

Legitimate	4	-	4	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	(5)

		<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Birth Rate x Comparability Factor ...	...	20.5	19.4	17.40
Birth Rate for England and Wales ...	...	16.4	15.7	15.0
Death Rate x Comparability Factor ...	...	10.8	11.27	14.74
Death Rate for England and Wales ...	...	14.2	11.7	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate ...	...	18.0	7.3	27.7
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales...		23.0	23.8	24.9

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	-	-	-	(1)
Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Meningitis ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Measles ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	-	-	-	(1)
Cancer of stomach.. ...	...	...	4	1	5	(8)
Cancer of lung, bronchus ...	...	...	4	2	6	(2)
Cancer of breast... ...	...	...	-	4	4	(1)
Cancer of uterus... ...	...	...	-	1	1	(3)
Other Cancers ...	...	...	10	7	17	(26)
Acute Anaemia ...	...	...	-	1	1	(-)
Diabetes ...	...	...	-	-	-	(1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	...	...	22	13	35	(45)
Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	20	6	26	(25)
High Blood Pressure with Heart Disease ...	...	...	2	4	6	(3)
Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	18	47	65	(79)
Other circulatory disease...	...	...	2	4	6	(8)
Influenza ...	...	...	3	-	3	(-)
Pneumonia ...	...	...	1	6	7	(16)
Bronchitis ...	...	...	3	-	3	(4)
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	...	-	4	4	(2)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	2	3	5	(3)
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea ...	...	...	-	1	1	(1)
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	1	1	2	(3)
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	3	-	3	(1)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Congenital malformations ...	...	...	1	1	2	(2)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	10	14	24	(24)
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	6	-	6	(4)
All other accidents ...	...	...	4	1	5	(7)
Suicide ...	...	...	2	-	2	(2)
All Causes ...	...	...	118	121	239	(272)

There has been a slight increase in the population figure. The Birth Rate is higher and the Death Rate is lower, compared with last year.

Cancer of the lung has shown an increase but the numbers of deaths from Vascular Diseases has fallen appreciably.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table summarises the notifications of Infectious Diseases made during the year :-

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>										<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
	<u>Age Periods</u>											<u>admitted</u>	
	<u>0-</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>10-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>A.U.</u>		<u>to</u>	
												<u>Hospital</u>	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-
Whooping Cough	6	5	10	24	7	1	-	1	-	-	54	2	-
Measles	5	13	26	105	14	4	1	-	-	-	168	1	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	6	1	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1957, the following cases and deaths from Tuberculosis were notified :- (figures for 1956 shown in brackets)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ...	7(6)	7(6)	-(-)	-(-)	-(1)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)

There has been a slight increase in the notifications of lung Tuberculosis during the year. Four of the cases were from one area and arrangements have been made to obtain a high as possible attendance when the Mass Radiography Unit is next in the locality.

The County Council Health Department are regularly offering B.C.G. vaccination to children of certain age groups to help in the prevention of Tuberculosis.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

I wish to thank Dr. T. V. Cooper of the County Laboratory and Dr. G. H. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory for their help and co-operation during the year. There has been an alround increase in the samples submitted.

The following is a table of specimens submitted to the Laboratories:-
(figures for 1956 shown in brackets)

Throat Swabs	...	104	(21)	Milk	...	164	(165)
Faeces	...	32	(34)	Ice Cream	...	8	(5)
Blood	...	21	(16)	Water	...	370	(268)
Ringworm	...	2	(Nil)	Sewage	...	1	(1)
Sputum	...	171	(126)	Miscellaneous	...	28	(12)

HOUSING

<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1957</u>	<u>Completed since war.</u>
Temporary -	-	-	-
Permanent -			
Traditional Type	29	36	414
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	60
Converted into Flats	-	-	-
Hutted Camps (15 demolished)	-	-	24
<hr/>			
No. of Council Houses (pre-war)			199
No. of Post War houses completed and occupied at 31/12/57			474
Total No. of Council Houses at 31/12/57			673
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Improvement Grants

No. of dwellings in respect of which approval was given during 1957	82
No. of dwellings in respect of which approval was given prior to 1957	<u>253</u>
Total	<u>335</u>

AMBULANCE SERVICES

To call the ambulance for routine work, ring Dorchester 420, in an emergency ask the exchange for ambulance. Always state urgency, nature of case, full address and which ambulance is required, e.g. sitting or stretcher case.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Five cases were investigated. Two were admitted to hospital voluntarily and two were reported to the County Council and obtained Home Helps, in the fifth case there was no need of any help at the present time.

PUBLIC CLEANSING & REFUSE DISPOSAL

The service is organised by the Public Health Department and is being carried out satisfactorily. The main disposal site is at Warmwell, but other sites at Cattistock, Piddlehinton and Lodmoor, Weymouth, are being used temporarily.

WATER SUPPLIES & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I wish to thank Mr. Forbes, the Water Engineer, for the following information on the extensions to Water Mains, Sewers and Sewerage installations during the year.

A 9 inch main sewer was commenced from Cattistock to Maiden Newton sewerage works.

At Charminster a new 4 inch duplicate water main from the reservoir as far as the School was completed and a new filter bed installed at the sewerage works for Cocklands Estate.

In the village of Dewlish a new 3 inch main was completed.

In Frampton a 3 inch water main was extended to the new housing estate and the housing estate sewerage works completed.

At Maiden Newton a new 3 inch and 4 inch main was laid to the Railway approach and thence to the Council Housing Estate and a 20,000 gallon additional reservoir was completed.

In the village of Melcombe Horsey a new 3 inch water main was laid from the Blandford Rural District Council's supply.

At Osmington an extension of the water main to Osmington Housing Estate was laid and a sewerage works to the housing estate completed.

Public Health Department,
24, High West Street,
Dorchester.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1957

HOUSING

Inspection and visits carried out:-

No. of houses inspected	-	(a) Under Housing Act	127
		(b) Under Public Health Act	4
No. of return visits	-	(a) Under Housing Act	1099
		(b) Under Public Health Act	22
No. of general housing visits			118
No. of visits in connection with cases of overcrowding			10

Subsequent action taken and general progress:-

Summary of notices served	- Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	206
		(b) Under Public Health Act	5
	- Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act	
		(i) Closing Orders	4
		(ii) Demolition Orders	5
		(iii) Undertakings	1
		(iv) Repair	Nil
		(b) Under Public Health Act	2
Houses rendered fit after service of notices including those in respect of which notices were served in previous years.	- Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	16
		(b) Under Public Health Act	2
	- Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act	Nil
		(b) Under Public Health Act	4

No. of houses demolished during the year 4

WATER SUPPLY

In investigations of individual supplies, three notices have been served requiring connection to the main supply or improvement to existing facilities, and three premises have been connected to the mains.

Sampling

Total number of samples taken	(a) From 6 Statutory Undertakings	127
	(b) From 25 Private Supplies	72
Results - Bacteriological examination	(a) Satisfactory (from 22 supplies)	134
	(b) Suspect (from 8 supplies)	8
	(c) Unsatisfactory (from 19 supplies)	54
Chemical Analysis	(a) Satisfactory (from 2 supplies)	3

FOOD & DRUGS

(a) Meat Inspection:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	847	1773	726	1640	19006	23992
Number inspected	847	1773	726	1640	18993	23979
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	8	47	5	10	28	98
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	89	365	1	42	2454	2951
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	11.45	23.23	0.83	3.17	13.07	12.72

Meat Inspection (Contd.)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	2	30	3	-	6	41
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	50	440	1	-	416	907
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.14	26.51	0.55	-	2.22	3.95
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	8	-	-	-	14
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	7	-	-	-	13
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total weight of meat condemned - 44 tons. 7 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs.						

(b) Sampling:-

(i) Milk

Samples taken for Bacteriological examination 1

Passed Methylene Blue Test 1

Failed Methylene Blue Test -

Samples taken for Biological examination -

(ii) Ice Cream

Samples taken 8

Placed in Provisional Grade 1 7

Placed in Provisional Grade 2 1

(c) Food Premises:-

There are a total number of 173 in the area, comprising:-

Bakehouses	9
Butchers	7
Grocers, Post Offices etc., also selling food	57
Fried Fish Premises	1
Hotels, Public Houses and Guest Houses	61
School Canteens, including food service	21
Dairies	3
Food Factory	1
Cafes	7
Canteens and Snack Bars	6

Of these premises, 50 are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and 3 under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

During the year, 82 visits of inspection were made to food premises, and arising from these inspections 3 informal notices were served. During the same period 2 informal notices were complied with.

(d) Food Condemnation:-

The surrender has been accepted during the year of the following quantities of foodstuffs:-

(i) Tinned Foodstuffs	2 cwts. 0 qrs. 21 lbs. 9 ozs.
(ii) Other Foodstuffs	2 lbs. 1 oz.

Disposal of condemned food.

- (i) Meat, after staining, for animal feeding and manufacture into manures.
- (ii) Tinned and similar foods, by burial.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952.

Ice cream is not manufactured in this area.

RODENT CONTROL

The work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operators is shown in the following summary.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All Others	Total
No. of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	4	245	9	16	274
(b) Survey	16	2446	185	95	2742
(c) Otherwise	1	1	-	-	2
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats - Major	-	1	1	-	2
Minor	9	376	18	21	424
(b) Mice - Major	1	-	-	-	1
Minor	-	116	-	4	120
No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority	8	469	8	12	497
Re-treatments	2	23	5	6	36
No. of notices served under Section 4					
(a) Treatment	-	-	3	6	9
(b) Structural works	-	-	-	-	-
No. of 'block' control schemes carried out - 1.					

FACTORIES ACTS, 1947 & 1948

(a) Factories:-

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	31	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authorities	100	10	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	-	-	-
TOTAL	137	10	1	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions.
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1			1	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1			1	
TOTAL	2			2	

FACTORIES ACTS (contd.)

(b) Outworkers:-

No. of Outworkers employed by :-

Net Manufacturers	62
Clothes Manufacturers	<u>50</u>
Total	<u>112</u>

Summary of inspections carried out during the year by :-

(i) Public Health Officers

Housing	1382
Food & Drugs	673
Infectious Diseases	5
General Sanitation	<u>1704</u>
	3764

(ii) Rodent Operators

	<u>3018</u>
Total	<u>6782</u>

